



Sri Haridev Ji at Budhauli, the original 5000-years-old one of the four principal deities of Vraja

Sri Haridev Ji, Behta, Bithoor, Kalpi and Kanpur Yatra



Sri Jagannatha Temple at Behta Bhitargaon, over 4200-year-old Deity

PS: This article is also published on website -

Sri Harideva Ji, Behta, Bithoor, Kalpi and Kanpur Yatra

Important places to visit in and around Kanpur:

1. Sri Haridev Ji Temple at Budhauli Village, Kanpur Dehat

(Useful information: It is two-hour drive from Kanpur in the remote village of Budhauli in Kanpur Dehat district.)

2. Sri Kesavadev Ji Temple at Rasdhan, Kanpur Dehat

(Useful information: It is two-hour drive from Kanpur in the remote village of Rasdhan in Kanpur Dehat district. Rasdhan is 3 km from Budhauli.)

3. Sri Jagannath Mandira – Monsoon Temple at Behta Bujurg, Bhitargaon

(Useful information: It is 40 km from Kanpur in the remote quaint village of Behta Bujurg near Bhitargaon, 15 km from Ghatampur.)

4. Bithoor – The Birthplace of Dhruva Maharaja and Brahmavarta Ghata

(Useful information: It is 24 km from Kanpur.)

5. Kalpi – The Birthplace of Srila Vyasaadeva

(Useful information: It is less than two-hour drive from Kanpur.)

6. ISKCON Kanpur

7. Sri Panki Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandira

Nestled in the heart of Uttar Pradesh, a 2-hour drive from Lucknow, the vibrant city of Kanpur has etched its name in the annals of history as a centre of industrial eminence. Yet its true glory is the highly significant Vaisnava holy places, steeped in devotion and the hidden timeless transcendental gems encircling its outskirts, namely, Sri Haridev Ji Temple at Budhauli Village, the original 5000-years-old one of the four principal deities of Vraja which came from Govardhan in the year 1670 after the Mughal attacks in Mathura and Vrindavana, over 4200-years-old ancient enigmatic Sri Jagannatha Mandira at Behta Bujura, Sri Keshavadeva Ji at Rasdhan, Bithoor – the Birthplace of Dhruva Maharaja, Brahmavarta Ghata where Lord Brahma performed Ashvamedha *yajna*, Kalpi – the Birthplace of Srila Vyasaadeva, Sri Panki Hanuman Mandira and the magnificent ISKCON Kanpur Temple at the centre of the city.

Sri Harideva Ji Temple is a two-hour drive from Kanpur in the remote village of Budhauli in Kanpur Dehat district. This original deity is one of the four principal deities of Vraja. The other three are Sri Govindadeva (Jaipur), Sri Baladeva (Dauji), and Sri Kesavadeva (Rasdhan). Just prior to Aurangzeb's attack on Mathura and Vrindavana in 1670, many important Deities were secretly moved for safe keeping. The famous Sri Harideva Ji from Govardhana and Sri Kesavadeva Ji from Mathura were taken to Budhauli village near the town of Rasdhan in Kanpur Dehat district. Raja Himmat Bahadur Singh brought Them here carrying on elephants. Sri Harideva Ji is worshipped at Budhauli. In Govardhan, currently, the *pratibhu* form of Harideva Ji is worshipped, as also mentioned in the book 'Vraja-mandala Darsana – A 30-Day Parikrama Experience' and Vraja-Lila Part 3 book by HG Deena Bandhu Das.

HG Deena Bandhu Prabhu mentions, "You can see that Haridev at Govardhana is a bas-relief Deity with His left hand held high to lift Govardhan Hill. This is the *pratibhu* Deity, because when the Mughals attacked Vraja, the original Deity was taken to a village near Kanpur called Budhauli. I have been there a couple of times. First time I went, there was just a broken-down

tiny shrine. Recently, one disciple of HH Radha Govind Swami Maharaj has made a large beautiful temple there and worship is going on very nicely." HH Radhanath Swami Maharaj has also visited this temple. Inside the temple, there are two altars – one for Sri Harideva Ji and the other for Thakura Sri Giridhar Gopala Ji, seated side-by-side.

Sri Caitanya Caritamrta Madhya-lila 18.17-19 describes that Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu visited Sri Harideva Ji Temple at Govardhana during His Vraja-mandala yatra, "Mad with ecstatic love, the Lord came to the village known as Govardhana. There He saw the Deity named Harideva and offered His obeisances unto Him. Harideva is an incarnation of Narayana, and His residence is on the western petal of the lotus of Mathura. Mad with ecstatic love, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu began to dance before the Harideva Deity. Hearing of the Lord's wonderful activities, all the people came to see Him. The people were astonished when they saw Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's ecstatic love and personal beauty. The priests who served the Harideva Deity offered the Lord a good reception."

While Sri Harideva Ji was installed at Budhauli, **Sri Kesavadeva Ji** came to Rasdhan, which is 3 km from Budhauli. Sri Kesavadeva Ji was earlier worshipped at Sri Krishna Janmasthana at Mathura. After coming to Rasdhan, unfortunately, in the late 1960s, Sri Kesavadeva Ji was stolen by thieves, and nobody knows its present whereabouts. However, by the sincere and dedicated efforts of the current Mahant (chief) at Sri Kesavadeva Ji Temple, a beautiful pratibhu deity of Lord Kesavadeva Ji is installed, carving Them after making expensive findings for several years.

Sri Jagannatha Temple, also known as Monsoon Temple, is about 2 hours from Kanpur, situated in the remote quaint village of Behta near Bhitargaon, 15 km from Ghatampur. The exact origins of this sacred site remain unknown, but the temple is at least 4200-years-old, as confirmed by carbon dating conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India. This ancient enigmatic parabolic architectural temple has its central structure resembling a majestic chariot, surrounded by walls shaped like delicate lotus petals. In the heart of the temple, surrounded by twelve uniquely carved pillars, there is the majestic deity of Lord Jagannath, standing tall at nearly 6-7 feet. Crafted from rare black stone, His divine form mesmerizes and blesses everyone. To the right is a smaller deity of Lord Vishnu. This is the utsava deity and is taken during the annual Ratha Yatra festival. Another unique feature of this temple is that at the top of the sanctum sanctorum, there is a stone slab that indicates the onset of the monsoon. Renowned for its unique phenomenon, wherein raindrops grace the roof just a few days before the onset of monsoon build-up in the Bay of Bengal, this temple is shrouded in an aura of mystery and wonder! The size and quantity of the raindrops on the ceilings hint at the intensity of the coming rains. As one enters the temple, on the left side chamber, there is an ancient deity of Sri Surya Narayana, and on the right side is Sri Ananta Padmanabha in reclining posture, same as at Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The facade of the temple is very articulated and resembles the entrance of a royal palace.

Nestled serenely on the banks of the sacred Ganges, **Bithoor** is a place of profound transcendental importance. It is 24 km from Kanpur. This area was the capital of Utpalaranya Kingdom. The ancient palace of Maharaja Uttanapada existed on the banks of the Ganges River. The ruins of this palace can still be seen by taking a boat ride from Bhahmavarta ghata. Here, there is a unique temple of Dhruva as the main deity. A short distance away is Brahmavarta Ghata. Set against the scenic backdrop of the river Ganges, Lord Brahma performed Ashvamedha *yajna* here. This place is marked by a nail of a horseshoe embedded in the steps of the ghata. On the completion of the *yajna*, the forests of Utpalaranya became known as Brahmavarta, the Seat of Brahma. *Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 4, chapters 8-10*, describes Dhruva's pastime.

Kalpi, the Birthplace of Srila Vyasa Deva, is located between Kanpur and Jhansi, less than a two-hour drive from Kanpur. Kalpi is a remote village on the banks of the Vyasa Ganga River in Jalaun district. Situated in a beautiful, tranquil rural setting is Vyasa Deva Teela – the birthplace of Srila Vyasa Deva, the literary incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. Adjacent to Vyasa Deva Teela there is a newly constructed South Indian temple that has the deities of Vyasa Deva's father Parashara Muni and Mother Satyavati holding baby Vyasa Deva on their lap. The Yamuna River is a short distance from Srila Vyasa Deva's birthplace. The entire area is incredibly peaceful and transcendently surcharged.

ISKCON Kanpur Temple is spread in a sprawling campus of over 15 acres, surrounded by beautiful gardens. This magnificent Temple is the abode of Sri Sri Radha Madhava, Sri Sri Janaki Janaki Vallabha Lakshmana Hanuman and Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundara. The temple was constructed in 2014 and has Bhaktivedanta Hall, Govindas restaurant, Vrinda restaurant, Vedic Ashram Guesthouse and Gift Shops. There is also a small Gaushala on the premises. The bigger, Bhaktivedanta Vaibhava Gaushala, is 22 km away near Unnao village.

Sri Panki Hanuman Temple is a revered ancient temple situated on the outskirts of Kanpur. This temple has a rich history of approximately 400 years, and was established before the city of Kanpur came into existence.

Kanpur is well-connected across India by rail, road and air. There are direct flights to Kanpur from Delhi and Mumbai. In fact, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Varanasi, Ayodhya and Naimisaranya are close-by, and form a transcendental circuit. Naimisaranya is 3 hours away and Prayagraj is a 4-hour drive from Kanpur.

1. Sri Haridev Ji Temple at Budhauli Kanpur Dehat

Sri Harideva Ji, the resplendent, dark-complexioned lifter of Govardhana Hill, smiles compassionately, bestowing His benevolent darshans upon everyone. Sri Harideva Ji Temple is a two-hour drive from Kanpur in the remote village of Budhauli in Kanpur Dehat district. This is the original deity 5000 years ago, one of the four principal deities of Vraja that was worshipped at Govardhana, prior to Aurangzeb's attack on Mathura and Vrindavana in 1670. As many important Deities were secretly moved for safe keeping, Sri Harideva Ji from Govardhana and Sri Kesavadeva Ji from Mathura were taken to Budhauli village near the town of Rasadan in Kanpur Dehat district. Sri Harideva Ji is worshipped at Budhauli. In Govardhana, currently, the *pratibhu* form of Harideva Ji is worshipped, as also mentioned in the book 'Vrajamandala Darsana – A 30-Day Parikrama Experience' and Vraja-Lila Part 3 book by HG Deena Bandhu Das.

Lord Caitanya Mahaprabhu visited Sri Harideva Ji Temple at Govardhan during His Vrajamandala yatra as described in *Sri Caitanya Caritamrta Madhya-lila 18.17-19* as follows:

*preme matta cali' aila govardhana-grama
'harideva' dekhi' tahan ha-ila pranam*

*'mathura'-padmera pascima-dale yanra vasa
'harideva' narayana — adi parakasa*

*harideva-age nace preme matta hana
saba loka dekhite aila ascarya suniya*

"Mad with ecstatic love, the Lord came to the village known as Govardhana. There He saw the Deity named Harideva and offered His obeisances unto Him. Harideva is an incarnation of Narayana, and His residence is on the western petal of the lotus of Mathura. Mad with ecstatic

love, Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu began to dance before the Harideva Deity. Hearing of the Lord's wonderful activities, all the people came to see Him. The people were astonished when they saw Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu's ecstatic love and personal beauty. The priests who served the Harideva Deity offered the Lord a good reception."

One evening in the springtime *rasa-lila* at Govardhan Hill, Krishna disappeared from the *gopis*. The *gopis* searched for Him everywhere. Eventually, they came to this place and, in the ecstatic madness of separation, they all began to shout, "Haridev! Haridev!" Suddenly, this beautiful, blackish Deity manifested before them with His left hand held high to lift Govardhan and a flute in His right hand poised on His curvy waist! The ecstasy of Srimati Radharani and the *gopis* knew no bounds, and they performed a very loving service to Haridev to their heart's content. Every day, they used to come and worship Haridev with flowers from around Manasi Ganga! Just imagine! Sri Caitanya Mahaprabhu danced and chanted in ecstasy in front of this very Deity! [Reference: *Vraja-Lila Part 3* book by HG Deena Bandhu Das]

HG Deena Bandhu Prabhu mentions, "You can see that Haridev at Govardhana is a bas-relief Deity with His left hand held high to lift Govardhan Hill. This is the *pratibhu* Deity, because when the Mughals attacked Vraja, the original Deity was taken to a village near Kanpur called Budhauli. I have been there a couple of times. First time I went, there was just a broken-down tiny shrine. Recently, one disciple of HH Radha Govind Swami Maharaj has made a large beautiful temple there and worship is going on very nicely." HH Radhanath Swami Maharaj has also visited this temple.

Inside the Sri Harideva Ji temple at Budhauli, there are two altars – one for Sri Harideva Ji and the other for Thakura Sri Giridhar Gopala Ji, seated side-by-side. The temple has a large courtyard with Kadamba and Tamala trees. There is also a nice flower garden and fruit trees like gauva, pomegranate, mango, and others.



Entrance of Sri Haridev Ji Temple at Budhauli



**Extremely rare and blessed darshans of Sri Haridev Ji at Budhauli
Sri Haridev Ji has Govardhan held high on His left hand.**



**Sri Haridev Ji
A flute in His right hand poised on His curvy waist**



Lotus Feet of Sri Haridev Ji



Thakura Sri Giridhar Gopala Ji is on the right side of Sri Haridev Ji



Thakura Sri Giridhar Gopala Ji



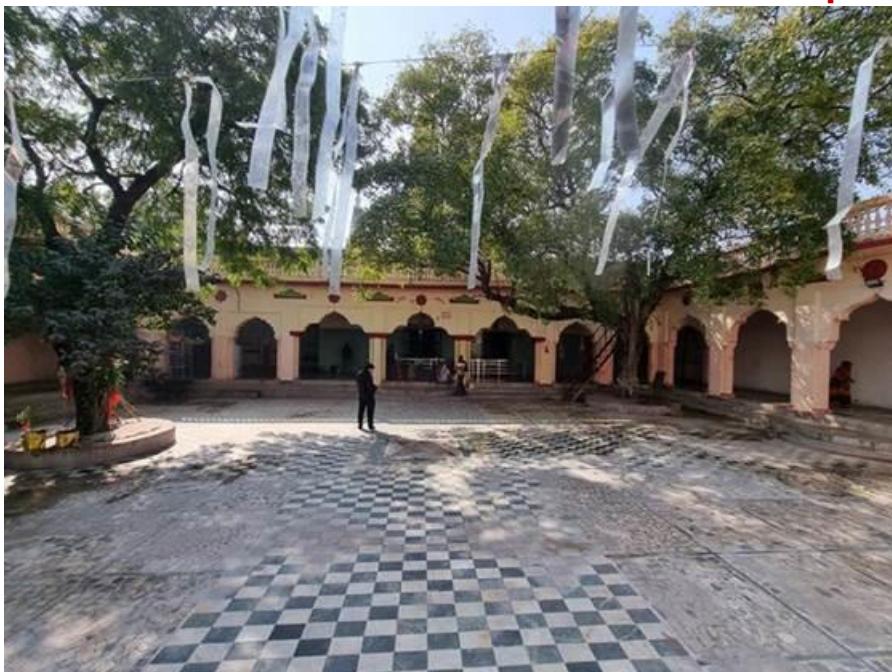
Thakura Sri Giridhar Gopala Ji



Lotus Feet of Thakura Sri Giridhar Gopala Ji



Arati of Sri Haridev Ji and Thakura Sri Giridhar Gopala Ji



Courtyard of Sri Haridev Ji Temple. Courtyard has auspicious Kadamba tree.

2. Sri Kesavadeva Ji Temple at Rasdhan

Three km from Sri Harideva Ji Temple at Budhauli, and a two-hour drive from Kanpur is Sri Kesavadeva Ji Temple. This is locally called Sri Kesava Dham. The deity of Sri Kesavadeva Ji came here from Mathura along with Harideva Ji in 1670. Sri Kesavadeva Ji is one of the four principal deities installed 5000 years ago by King Vajranabha at Sri Krishna Janmasthana in Mathura. After coming to Rasdhan, unfortunately, in the late 1960s, the deity of Sri Kesavadeva Ji was stolen by thieves, and nobody knows its present whereabouts.

The current Mahant (Chief) at Sri Kesavadeva Ji Temple has installed a beautiful *pratibhu* deity of Lord Kesavadeva Ji at Rasdhan, carving Them after making expensive findings for several years. Surrounded by lush green fields, Rasdhan is a tranquil village on the border of the Kanpur Dehat District and Jalaun District, just off Etawah – Kanpur Road on Kanpur Delhi Highway.



Entrance of Sri Kesavadeva Ji Temple at Rasdhana



Sri Kesavadeva Ji



Dedicated pujari at Sri Kesavadeva Ji



Sri Kesavadeva Ji Temple at Rasdhan

3. Sri Jagannatha Temple at Behta Bujurg

Tucked away in the serene countryside, Sri Jagannatha Temple, also known as the Monsoon Temple, is about 40 km from Kanpur in the remote quaint village of Behta, 15 km from Ghatampur. The exact origins of this sacred site remain unknown, but the temple is at least 4200-years-old as per the carbon dating done by the Archaeological Survey of India. This ancient enigmatic parabolic architectural temple has its central structure resembling a majestic chariot, surrounded by walls shaped like delicate lotus petals. The exterior walls, adorned with a peacock and a wheel, give the temple a unique and mystical aura. In the heart of the temple, surrounded by twelve uniquely carved pillars, there is the majestic deity of Lord Jagannath, standing tall at nearly 6-7 feet. Crafted from rare black stone, His divine form mesmerizes and blesses everyone. To the right is a smaller deity of Lord Vishnu. This is the *utsava* deity and is taken during the annual Ratha Yatra festival. At the pedestal of the altar is Sri Pashupatinath. Above that is Lord Jagannatha. Around the deity there are carvings of Dasavatara. The deity is on a high platform, and there is a narrow space behind it for circumambulation. Atop the temple is a Nila cakra, same as at Sri Mandira in Puri. The temple has a Ratha Yatra and a huge festival every year that coincides with the Ratha Yatra at Puri.

This ancient temple has garnered attention for its remarkable ability to forecast the arrival of monsoon rains. At the top of the sanctum sanctorum, there is a stone slab that indicates the onset of the monsoon. Renowned for its unique phenomenon, wherein raindrops grace the roof just a few days before the onset of monsoon build-up in the Bay of Bengal, this temple is shrouded in an aura of mystery and wonder. The size and quantity of the raindrops on the ceilings hint at the intensity of the coming rains. The formation of water droplets and its dripping occurs until the heavy rainfall takes over. Once there is heavy rainfall, the dripping of water and the droplet formation stops. The inside walls of the temple are 14 feet wide. The façade of the temple is very articulated and resembles the entrance of a royal palace. As one enters the temple, on the left side chamber, there is an ancient deity of Sri Surya Narayana, and on the right side is Sesasayi Vishnu - Sri Ananta Padmanabha in reclining posture, same as at Padmanabha Swamy Temple in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. The temple's last restoration dates to the 11th century. During the period of the Mughal invasion, this temple was naturally covered with dense bushes and thus, this area remained unnoticed and unharmed.

During the British colonial period, the temple faced the threat of demolition. British officers, deeming it a centre of superstitious beliefs, planned to dismantle it. However, as the workers commenced their efforts, a sudden and violent storm ravaged the area. The strong winds and torrential rain forced the workers to abandon their mission. Taking it as a divine intervention, the British officers decided to halt the demolition, recognizing the temple's special significance. This is now an Archaeological Survey of India protected site. In the temple compound there is an ancient pillar and door jamb lying down. There is an unmistakable peacock motif and Chakra on the outer wall of the temple.



Sri Jagannatha Temple at Behta Bujurg, Bhiatargaon



Main entrance of the temple



Most rare darshans from Sri Jagannatha Temple at Behta Bujurg



Sri Jagannatha

The majestic deity of Lord Jagannatha, standing tall at nearly 6–7 feet. Crafted from rare black stone, His divine form mesmerizes and blesses all. To the right is a smaller deity of Lord Vishnu. Sri Pashupatinath is at the pedestal of the altar.



Lord Jagannatha



Small Deity of Lord Vishnu

This is the utsava deity that is taken for annual Ratha Yatra



At the top of the sanctum sanctorum, there is a stone slab that indicates the onset of the monsoon.



Stone slab that forecasts monsoon rains

Water droplets form at this stone slab just a few days before the onset of monsoon build-up in the Bay of Bengal. The size and quantity of the raindrops on the ceilings hint at the intensity of the coming rains. The formation of water droplets and its dripping occurs until the heavy rainfall takes over.



Ancient deity of Sri Surya Narayana



Sesayi Vishnu - Sri Ananta Padmanabha in reclining posture



Dedicated pujari at Sri Jagannatha Temple



This is now an Archaeological Survey of India protected monument

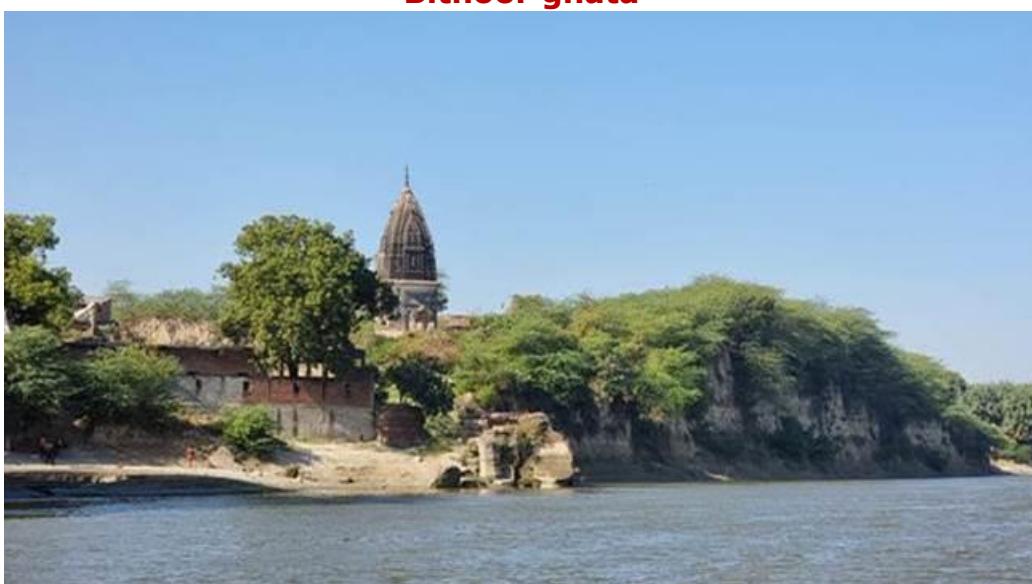
4. Bithoor

Bithoor is an important and ancient place situated 24 km north of Kanpur. Here, the two significant places to visit are (1) Dhruva Teela - the birthplace of Dhruva, and (2) Brahmavarta Ghata. Dhruva Teela is where the ancient palace of Maharaja Uttanapada existed. This area was the capital of Utpalaranya Kingdom. Dhruva Teela is situated on the banks of the Ganges River. Ruins of the palace can still be seen by traveling on a boat ride from Brahmavarta ghata. The boat ride is very pleasant. Dhruva Teela is 2 km from Brahmavarta ghata. Here, there is a unique Temple of Dhruva as the main deity.

Brahmavarta Ghata is where Brahma performed *Ashvamedha yajna*. Set against the scenic backdrop of the river Ganges, this place is marked by a nail of a horseshoe embedded in the steps of the ghata. This nail is from Brahma's horse, while going for *Ashvamedha yajna*. On the completion of the *yajna*, the forests of Utpalaranya became known as Brahmavarta, the Seat of Brahma. The ghat has a small temple, one of the few shrines dedicated to Lord Brahma. The temple houses a Siva-linga referred to as the Brahmeshwar Mahadeva. It was established by Lord Brahma after the completion of *yajna*. The temple has wooden slippers to commemorate the sacred footsteps of Lord Brahma. *Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 4, chapters 8-10* describe Dhruva's pastime.



Bithoor ghata



Beautiful Bithoor ghata along the Ganges River



A nail of a horseshoe embedded in the steps of the Brahmavarta Ghata. Brahma performed *Ashvamedha yajna* here.



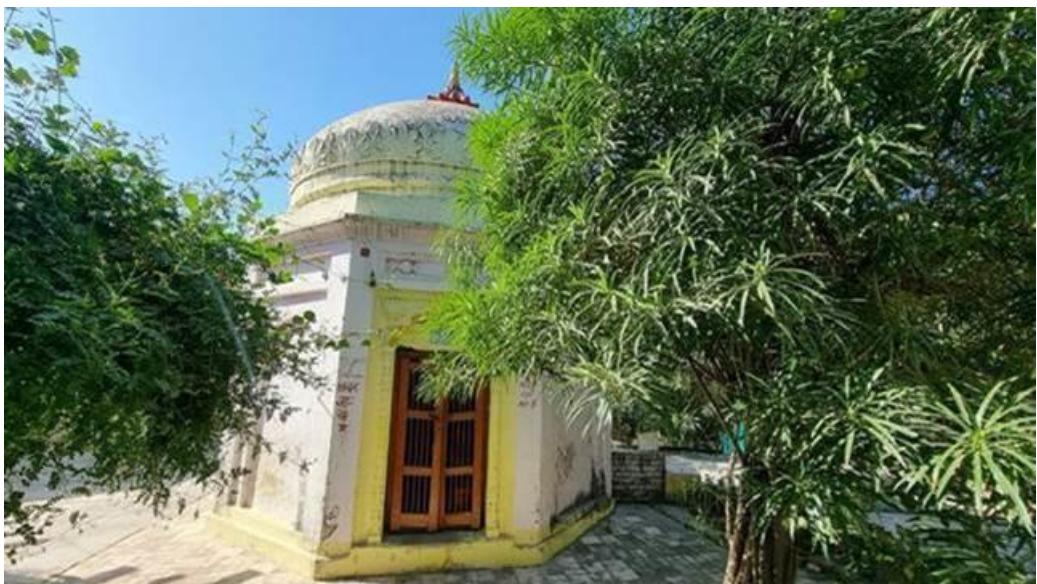
Ruins of Maharaja Uttanapada's palace as seen by traveling on a boat ride from Brahmavarta ghata



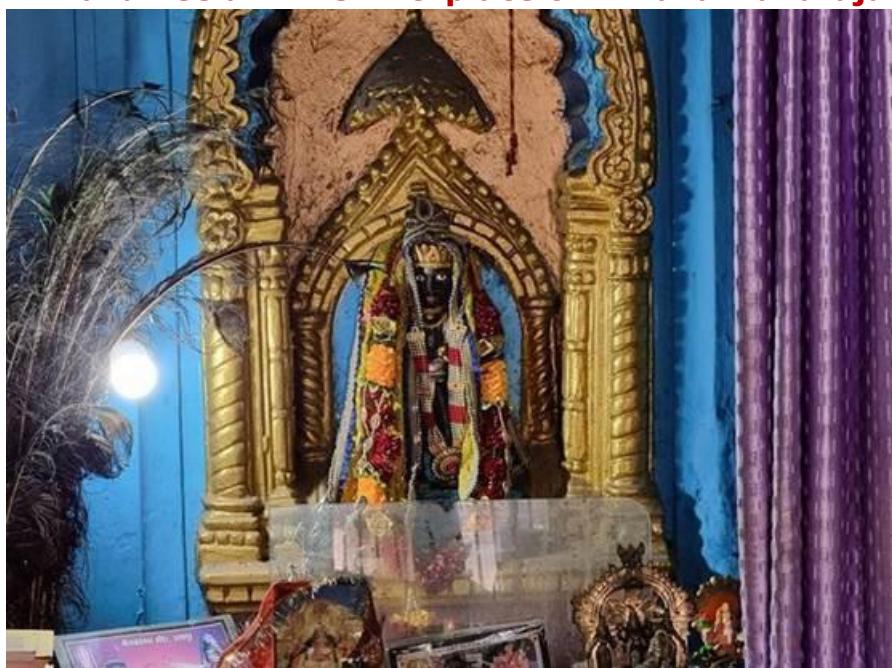
Dhruva Teela – The Birthplace of Dhruva Maharaja



Main entrance of Dhruva Teela



Dhruva Teela – The Birthplace of Dhruva Maharaja



Exact birth spot of Dhruva Maharaja

5. Kalpi – Birthplace of Srila Vyasadeva

Kalpi is a remote village located between Kanpur and Jhansi. Situated in the beautiful, tranquil rural setting on the banks of the Vyasa Ganga river is Vyasadeva Teela – the birthplace of Srila

Vyasadeva, the literary incarnation of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. At Vyasadeva Teela, there is a life-size murti of Srila Vyasadeva. Adjacent to Vyasadeva Teela, there is a newly constructed beautiful temple to commemorate the appearance of Srila Vyasadeva. Temple has the deities of Vyasadeva's father Parashara Muni and Mother Satyavati holding baby Vyasadeva on their lap. The Yamuna River is a short distance from Srila Vyasadeva's birthplace. The entire area is incredibly peaceful and transcendently surcharged. Kalpi is less than a two-hour drive from Kanpur.



Main entrance of Kalpi Village with signage – Shree Vyasa Janmabhumi



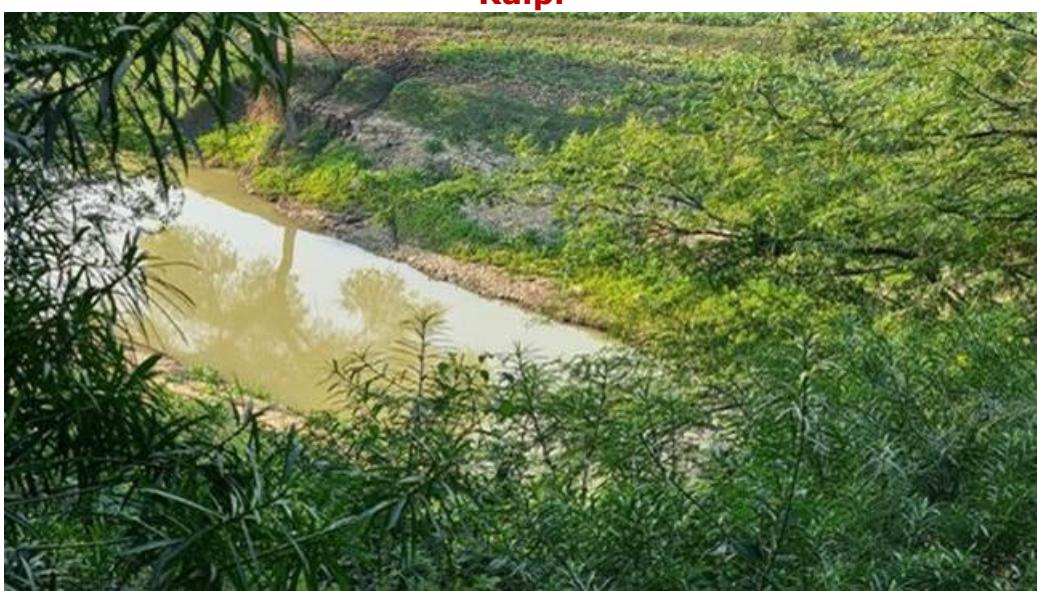
Ancient Sri Maha Rsi Vyasa Temple at His Birthplace



Lifesize murti of Srila Vyasa Deva at his birthplace at Sri Maha Rsi Vyasa Temple Kalpi



Beautiful view of Yamuna River at a short distance from Sri Maha Rsi Vyasa Temple Kalpi



Vyasa Ganga River is just behind Sri Maha Rsi Vyasa Temple



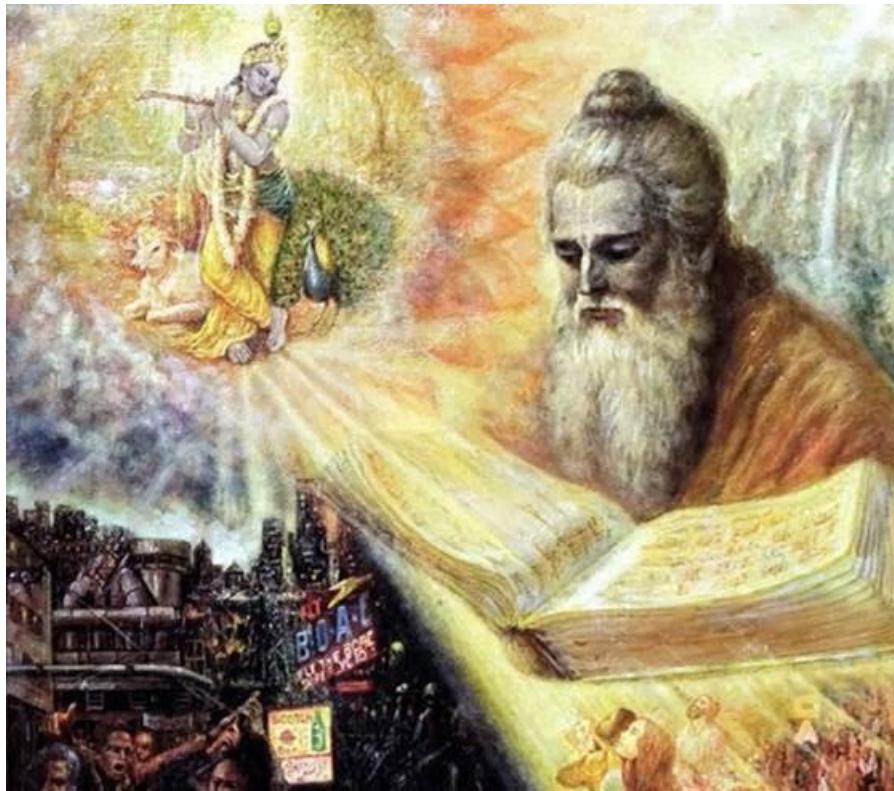
Beautiful Sri Bala Vyasa Mandira is adjacent to Srila Vyasadeva birth spot to commemorate his appearance



Sri Bala Vyasa Mandira Kalpi



Vyasadeva's father Parashara Muni and Mother Satyavati holding baby Vyasadeva on their lap



Srila Vyasa Deva compiling Srimad Bhagavatam

Śrīmad-Bhāgavatam (Bhāgavata Purāṇa)



Srimad Bhagavatam

6. ISKCON Kanpur and Bhaktivedanta Vaibhava Gaushala

ISKCON Kanpur Temple is spread in a sprawling campus of over 15 acres, surrounded by beautiful gardens. This magnificent Temple is the abode of exquisitely beautiful Sri Sri Radha Madhava, Sri Sri Janaki Janaki Vallabha Lakshmana Hanuman and Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundara. On the auspicious day of Sri Rama Vijaya Dashami, the temple was inaugurated with a grand opening ceremony in 2014 with the blessings of HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj, dignitaries and devotees from around the world. The temple was fully constructed in only 18 months.

ISKCON Kanpur has Bhaktivedanta Hall, Govindas restaurant, Vrinda restaurant, Vedic Ashram Guesthouse and Gift Shops. There is also a small Gaushala on the premises. The bigger, Bhaktivedanta Vaibhava Gaushala, is 22 km away near Unnao village.



Magnificent ISKCON Kanpur Temple



ISKCON Kanpur Temple



Entrance of ISKCON Kanpur Temple



Benevolent darshans of Sri Sri Radha Madhava and Lalita Vishakha



Sri Sri Radha Madhava



Sri Sri Janaki Janaki Vallabha Lakshmana Hanuman



Sri Sri Nitai Gaurasundara



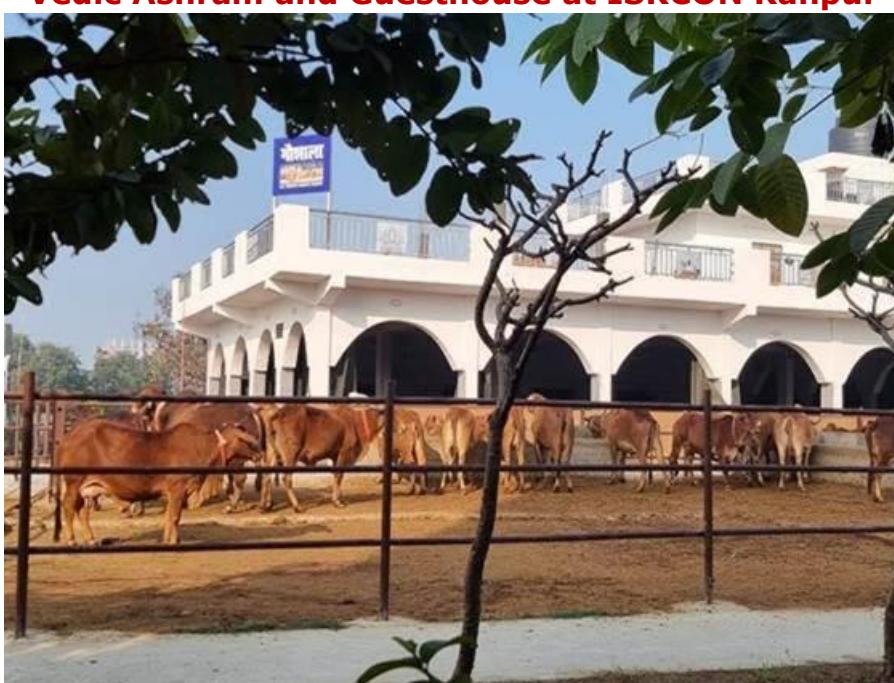
His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada



Beautiful Gift Shop at ISKCON Kanpur



Vedic Ashram and Guesthouse at ISKCON Kanpur



Gaushala at ISKCON Kanpur



Save Cow, Save Earth



HH Gopal Krishna Goswami Maharaj at ISKCON Kanpur Inauguration Ceremony 2014



Transcendentalists - HG Devakinandan Das, HH Bhakti Prachar Parivrajak Swami and distinguished dignitaries at ISKCON Kanpur



Krishna Conscious School at ISKCON Kanpur



Bhakti Vedanta Vaibhava Gaushala at Unnao Village



Lord Krishna's beloved cows at Bhakti Vedanta Vaibhava Gaushala



Their Lordships Sri Sri Jagannatha Baladeva Subhadra at Bhakti Vedanta Vaibhava Gaushala

7. Sri Panki Hanuman Mandira

Sri Panki Hanuman Temple, also known as Panchamukhi Hanuman Mandira, is a revered ancient temple situated on the outskirts of Kanpur near Panki railway station. This temple has a rich history of approximately 400 years, and was established before the city of Kanpur came into existence. Panki Hanuman Mandira beckons pilgrims from far-distant lands, drawn by their quest for the divine blessings of Hanuman Ji, the eternal servitor of Lord Sri RamaCandra, as described in *Ramayana* and *Srimad-Bhagavatam*. The Buddha Mangal event held at Panki Hanuman Temple is an awe-inspiring spectacle. It takes place every Monday night from 9pm onwards. The temple transforms into a magnetic gathering ground, drawing thousands of devout. People from remote villages and various corners of the country come together to participate in this grand celebration. As midnight approaches, an immense crowd forms around the temple premises, patiently queuing up for a glimpse of the revered deity. The atmosphere is surcharged with devotional fervor.

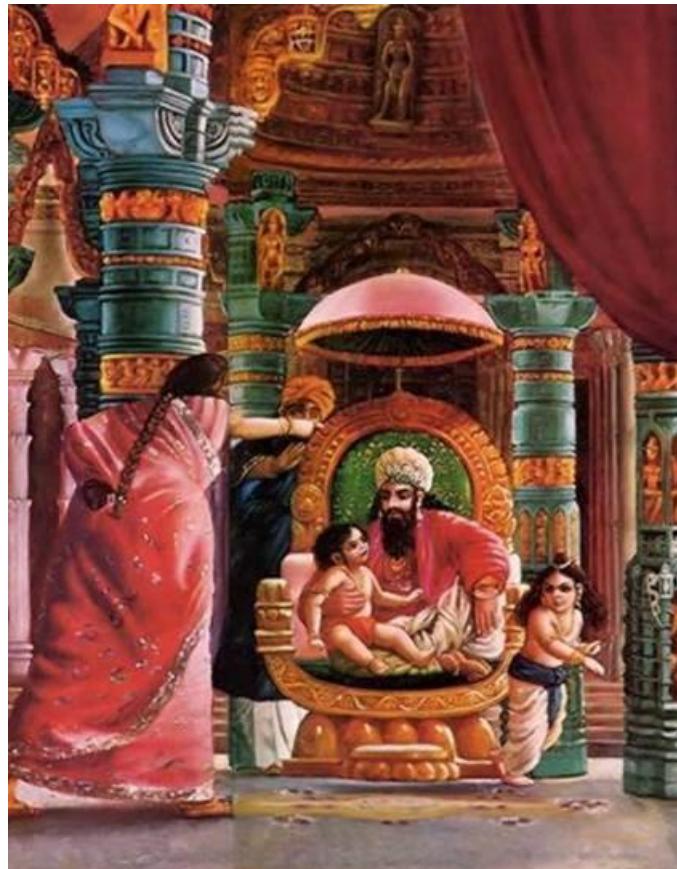
Another remarkable aspect is the change of appearance of Sri Panki Hanuman Ji throughout the course of the day, reflecting different aspects of the deity's persona. As the morning sun begins to ascend, the countenance of Hanunam Ji transforms into that of Bala Hanuman, exuding a radiant and youthful charm. As the day progresses and noon approaches, the face of Hanuman Ji appears as a youth, symbolizing the brahmacari aspect, emphasizing commitment to celibacy and purity. As the evening draws near, Hanuman Ji's aura transforms as a Mahapurusa, a portrayal of the depth of wisdom, strength, and maturity that Hanuman Ji embodies.



Blessed darshans of Sri Panki Hanuman Ji

Dhruva Maharaja's Pastime

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 4, chapters 8 to 12, describes the wonderful pastime of Dhruva Maharaja. Svayambhuva Manu had two sons, Uttanapada and Priyavrata, by his wife, Satarupa. King Uttanapada had two queens, named Suniti and Suruci. Suruci was much dearer to the King; Suniti, who had a son named Dhruva, was not his favourite.



Dhruva's stepmother Suruci forbade him to sit on the lap of his father Uttanapada

One day, a young boy, Dhruva, tried to climb onto his father's lap. Queen Suruchi, Dhruva's stepmother, stopped him. Out of pride and envy, she told Dhruva that he was not qualified to sit on his father's lap, nor qualified to ascend the throne because he had not taken birth from her womb. If Dhruva at all desires to rise to the throne of the King, then you have to undergo severe austerities. First, you must satisfy the Supreme Personality of Godhead, Narayana, and then, when you are favoured by Him because of such worship, you shall have to take your next birth from my womb.

Hearing these harsh words from his stepmother, Dhruva began to breathe heavily, like a snake struck by a stick, and left in anger. When he saw that his father was silent and did not protest, he immediately left the palace and went to his mother.

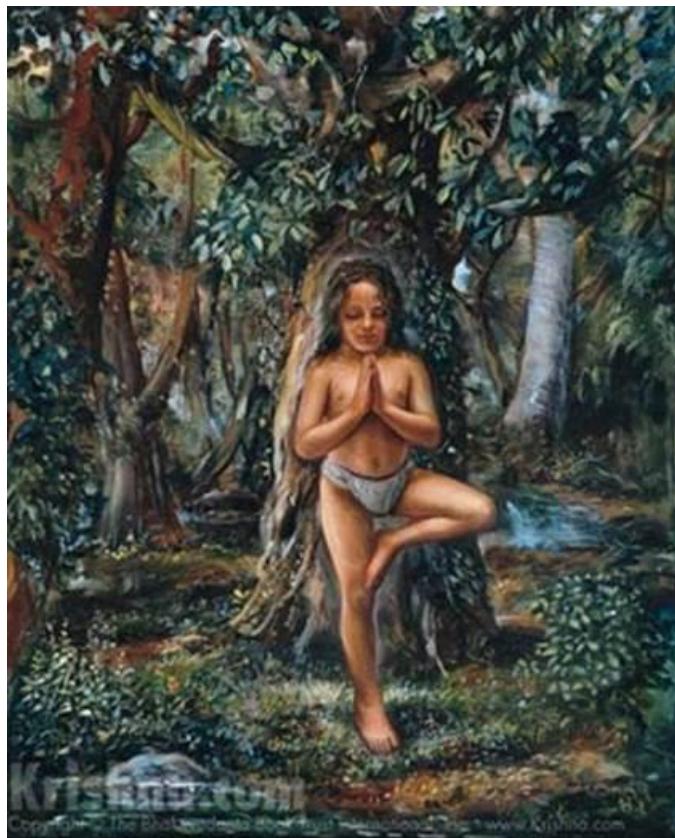
When Dhruva reached his mother, Suniti, his lips were trembling in anger, and he was crying very grievously. Suniti also became greatly aggrieved as this incident was unbearable for her. She instructed Dhruva, "Without further delay, you must engage yourself in worshiping the lotus feet of the Supreme Personality of Godhead. The Supreme Lord is so great that simply by worshiping His lotus feet, your great-grandfather, Lord Brahma, acquired the necessary qualifications to create this universe.

Your grandfather, Svayambhuva Manu, executed great sacrifices with the distribution of charity, and thereby, with unflinching faith and devotion, he worshiped and satisfied the Supreme Personality of Godhead. By acting in that way, he achieved the greatest success in material happiness and afterward achieved liberation, which is impossible to obtain by worshiping demigods. "My dear Dhruva, I do not find anyone who can mitigate your distress but the Supreme Personality of Godhead." After deliberate consideration and with intelligence and fixed determination, he left his father's house to the forest.



Narada Instructs Dhruva

The great sage Narada overheard this news, and understanding all the activities of Dhruva, he was struck with wonder and approached Dhruva. The boy Dhruva told Narada Muni of his desire to have a position and kingdom more exalted than any yet achieved by anyone, even his fathers and grandfathers, and he asked Narada what the best way was to achieve this. When Narada saw that Dhruva would not be swayed by his determination to fulfill his desires, he instructed him on the path of devotional service to the Supreme Personality of Godhead. He asked Dhruva to go to Madhuvana forest and gave him specific instructions to worship the Supreme Lord. He gave a mantra: *Om namo bhagavate vasudevaya*.



Dhruva performs meditation on the Supreme Lord

Having accepted Narada Muni as his spiritual master, the young boy Dhruva followed his advice exactly. For the first month, Dhruva ate only fruits and berries. The second month, he only ate dry grass and leaves, and in the third month he only drank water. All along, Dhruva remained completely absorbed in the worship of the Supreme Lord. In the fourth month, Dhruva became a master of his breathing and only inhaled on every twelfth day. By the fifth month, Dhruva Maharaja was able to stand on one leg perfectly, without movement, and concentrate his mind fully on the Supreme cause of all causes. Dhruva's mind was completely fixed upon the form of the Supreme Personality of Godhead.



Supreme Lord appears before Dhruva

After five months, the Lord appeared before Dhruva. The brilliant form of the Lord in which Dhruva was absorbed in meditation, suddenly disappeared. Dhruva was perturbed, and his meditation broke. But as soon as he opened his eyes, he saw the Supreme Personality of Godhead personally present, just as he had been seeing the Lord in his heart. Dhruva fell before the Lord like a rod and offered his obeisances. He wanted to offer prayers to the Lord but, due to his inexperience, he hesitated, not knowing how to describe the Lord.

The Lord, out of His causeless mercy, understood Dhruva's desire and touched Dhruva on the forehead with his conchshell. In this way, Dhruva became transcendently inspired. He understood the Absolute Truth and he thus offered the Lord many prayers. Dhruva, in ecstasy, looked upon the Lord as if he were drinking the Lord with his eyes, kissing the lotus feet of the Lord with his mouth, and embracing the Lord with his arms.

Dhruva prayed, "Because of my state of complete foolishness and paucity of pious activities, although the Lord offered me His personal service, I wanted material name, fame and prosperity. My case is just like that of the poor man who, when he satisfied a great emperor who wanted to give him anything he might ask, out of ignorance, asked for only a few broken grains of husked rice. My Lord, by Your unbroken transcendental glance You are the supreme witness of all stages of intellectual activities. You are the original Personality of Godhead, full with the six opulences of strength, wealth, fame, beauty, knowledge and renunciation."

How to reach Kanpur: Kanpur is well-connected across India by rail, road and air. There are direct flights to Kanpur from Delhi and Mumbai. In fact, Kanpur, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, Varanasi, Ayodhya and Naimisaranya are close-by, and form a transcendental circuit. Naimisaranya is 3 hours away and Prayagraj is a 4-hour drive from Kanpur.

Useful Resources:

Lord Caitanya at Sri Harideva Ji Temple: <https://vedabase.io/en/library/cc/madhya/18/17/>

ISKCON Kanpur: <https://iskconkanpur.com/>
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMN65IIp2v_BQbKbeKF-FmQ

Dhruva Maharaja pastime: <https://vedabase.io/en/library/sb/4/8/>

Valuable Life Lessons From Dhruva Maharaja:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=woptcQqUYzk>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h0ZFhar8FN8>
<https://www.facebook.com/iskconkanpur/>

ISKCON Kanpur Temple Inauguration: <https://iskcondesiretree.com/profiles/blogs/iskcon-kanpur-temple-inauguration>

Sri Naimisaranya Dham: <https://naimisaranya-dhama-yatra.blogspot.com/2023/04/sri-naimisaranya-dhama-yatra.html>

Vraja Mandala Darsana – A 30 Day Parikrama Experience:
<https://www.amazon.com/Vraja-Mandala-Darsana-Parikrama-Experience/dp/8193563557> (book)

Mayapur TV: <https://www.youtube.com/c/MayapurTVOfficial>
Hare Krishna TV: <https://www.youtube.com/live/AzJiA2gLIpY>

Holy Pilgrimages – Journey to Holy Dhamas: www.Holy-Pilgrimages.com
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